RELAXED SUMMER LIVING in Suffolk, London and Long Island

THE LATEST KITCHENS, BLINDS & TABLE LINENS

CREATE THE PERFECT HOME OFFICE

AN INVITATION TO LONDON’S HOTTEST DESIGN SHOW

PLUS: JOHN ROCHA’S DREAM DINING ROOM

DISCOVER IRELAND Be inspired by its food, people and design
Ocean drive

Renovating his parents’ Long Island summer home was a dream commission for interior designer Stewart Manger.
The Manger family house, in the Hamptons, rises above the beach, where dune grass billows gently in the Atlantic breeze.

Stewart's niece Samantha plays "queen of the castle" on a 1960s table in the sun room. The rattan furniture, found at Bielecky Brothers in New York, is covered in fresh blue and white fabric, Palma by Bernard Thorp. Try Dko for similar rattan pieces in the UK.
Stewart challenges Samantha to a game of backgammon in the hall. The beautiful oak panelling dates back to 1895 when the house was built.
"This is a place where children come to run around and have fun."

Escaping Manhattan’s cross-town traffic on a Friday night can be hellish. But for Stewart Manger, the two-hour drive from the city to his family’s beach house in the Hamptons is worth every minute for the relaxing weekend it affords. Stewart’s parents fell in love with and bought the turn-of-the-last-century cedar-shingled house in the Hamptons more than 40 years ago, and the entire family has been coming here for summers ever since.

Sitting on the beach, with breathtaking views of the ocean, the property was last renovated in the 1970s and, with an increasing number of grandchildren, the Mangers turned to their son Stewart for help. A senior designer with interior designer Bunny Williams in New York, Stewart agrees that the house was ripe for redecoration. “I chose new carpets, curtains, wall coverings and colour palettes for the entire house. Plus we had to create additional sleeping space. The house was big enough when we came here as children but when my sister started her own family there simply wasn’t room to accommodate all of us comfortably.”

The beach house is shut up during the winter months so Stewart, together with an architect friend, started renovations during the autumn and finished by the following summer. “Because the house is a summer residence really,” he explains, “I decided on a pared-down, simple scheme using clear, saturated colours that would stand up to the..."
bright sun and make the interior as light and airy as possible.” Taking the colours of the beach, the sea and the sky as his inspiration, Stewart chose paint colours of pale blues, sands and greens, teamed with furnishings and fabrics in neutrals or crisp whites.

Ever mindful that this is a family home, Stewart chose practical bleached oak for the floors. “This is a place where children come to run around and have fun, so it needed to be functional,” he says, “and to stand up to people walking through with sandy feet.”

Built in 1895, the property boasts original fireplaces as well as fine oak panelling. “I was keen to maintain the existing vernacular of the house, and decorate accordingly,” says Stewart. The living room has an English country feel, with floral fabrics and Regency furniture, while the sitting room feels more French, with yellow and blue fabrics and white furniture. The dining room has oak chairs and luxurious curtains and rugs, while the huge kitchen is open-plan with a central table for informal dining. Throughout, the furniture is mostly rattan, wicker and bamboo, which adds to the relaxed feel.

The family can now enjoy their summers in surroundings more in tune with their spatial needs. “I’m pleased with the results,” says Stewart, “but I think it will look better in five years’ time. I prefer a home to feel lived in and not so brand new. Yet it’s a wonderful home that the family adores coming to. That’s the main thing at the end of the day.”

SOURCEBOOK
Beauvais Carpets, (012) 212 688 2265; beauvaiscarpets.com.
Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.com.
Bernard Thorp, (020) 7352 5745; bernardthorp.co.uk.
Bielecky Brothers, (001) 212 753 2355; bieleckybrothers.com.
Harris Levy, (001) 212 226 3102; harrislevy.com.
Oka, 0870 160 6062; okadirect.com.
Peter Jones, (020) 7730 3434; peterjones.co.uk.
Vaughan, (020) 7369 4600; vaughandesigns.com.
Viking, (01787) 224921; viking-europe.com.
Waterworks, waterworks.com.
**BELOW LEFT** Fish prints and a chandelier made of cast cement add further interest to the staircase, carpeted in a herringbone weave from Beauvais Carpets.

**THIS PICTURE** The colours of this guest room were inspired by the beach. The crisp bedlinen is from Harris Levy in New York — try Peter Jones for similar — and the lamps are by Vaughan.

**FEATURE KAREN LIPTON • PHOTOGRAPHS WILLIAM WALDRON**